



Daniel and the Lions

Welcome (Parents and Carers asked to stay until after the Pilots Prayer)

Welcome back to Friends on Faith Adventures. We are looking forward to going on a journey and nobody knows where we will end up. All we know is we have got our crate filled with adventure and an open path ahead. So, hold on tight and enjoy the ride!!

Let's hear about FOFA bear and FOFA cam's adventures this week and how everyone got on with the Walking the Way challenge. (Encourage everyone, including parents and carers, to join in.)

The Pilots Prayer

Lord help us to be:

Prepared for adventure

In all we do.

Loving and caring,

Open to others

Together as one community

Sharing the love of Jesus on our way.

Amen

Fun together

The game for this session is a mix between Musical Statues and What's the Time Mr Wolf.

Get one of the leaders to be Daniel on a chair in the middle of the room. Get all the children (or Lions) to form a semi-circle around them about 5 meters away. Get the leader to pretend to fall asleep at which point the children (Lions) to start approaching. When "Daniel" opens his eyes the "Lions" stop. If any Lion is still moving, then they are out. The winner is the first Lion to reach Daniel.

Today's theme is a story of how God saved a man called Daniel from being fed to lions.



Daniel and the Lions

The Big Story - Daniel and the Lions' Den

Daniel 6

Eyeliner pencil/face paint crayon

An old ragged and torn shirt

A crown (made from card or bought from dressing up shop)

Paper bow ties x2 (black card cut in the shape of a bow with sticky tape on the back)

Tea towels x2

[You will need 6 volunteers]

Reader 1: So today we are looking at a guy called Daniel

[Get a volunteer to be Daniel]

Reader 2: He looks a nice fella.

Reader 1: Well - you are right, he was, and he was a really hard worker too!

Reader 2: So, what is his story?

Reader 1: Well – Daniel was such a good worker and so trustworthy that he kept being promoted to more and more important jobs. The best jobs in fact.

Reader 2: Well, I bet that didn't go down very well with the people that worked there already.

Reader 1: Exactly. Daniel ended up working for a king called Darius.

[Get a volunteer to be Darius and put a crown on him]

Now, Darius really liked Daniel and wanted to put him in charge of his whole country. The existing servants were not best pleased.

Reader 2: They don't look happy and they don't look much like servants either.

[Go in the bag and get out the bow ties and the towels to place over two volunteers' arms like a waiter and stick bow tie on them.]

Reader 1: Better?

Reader 2: Much, thank you...



Daniel and the Lions

Reader 1: Well, the servants decided that they needed to come up with a plan to get rid of Daniel without upsetting the king and losing their own heads. Now, the only way of doing this was to make Daniel do something wrong.

Reader 2: But what? If Daniel was such a goodie-goodie!

Reader 1: Well, the only thing they could find that was different about Daniel was the fact he worshipped God. So, they came up with a plan...

Reader 2: Was it a cunning plan?

Reader 1: Well, it was quite clever. They convinced the king that no man in the kingdom should worship anything but the king himself. Anyone found worshipping anyone else should be thrown to the lions.

[Get two volunteers to be lions]

Reader 2: Roar! Hey, they don't look much like lions!

*[Get the eyeliner and draw a nose and some whiskers on the two young people.] *make sure the young people are not allergic to makeup/face paint* [Get the lions to roar!]*

Reader 2: That's better!

Reader 1: When Daniel heard about the new law he did what he always did and went to pray to God about what he should do. The servants saw Daniel doing this and told the king.

Reader 2: That doesn't sound good. If the king find out, Daniel will be thrown to the lions!

Reader 1: The king was very sad but he didn't want to show weakness, so he had to agree that Daniel should be fed to the lions! So the king gave the order and Daniel was placed in the lions' den. Before Daniel went in, the king said he hoped that the God that Daniel prayed to would save him.

Reader 2: Well, that was nice?

[Get the lions to circle Daniel]

Reader 2: Those lions look very, very hungry!

Reader 1: The next morning the king rushed down to see if Daniel was still alive. He called down to the pit and asked if he was still alive. Daniel replied "O king, my God sent an angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me because I have done no wrong"!

Reader 2: Woah, that's pretty impressive!



Daniel and the Lions

Reader 1: That is what the king thought. In fact, he was so amazed, he made a new law and said: “Daniel’s God is great, and I order that everyone in my kingdom must respect the Lord God, who rescued Daniel from the hungry lions”.

Reader 2: I wonder why Daniel still prayed to God?

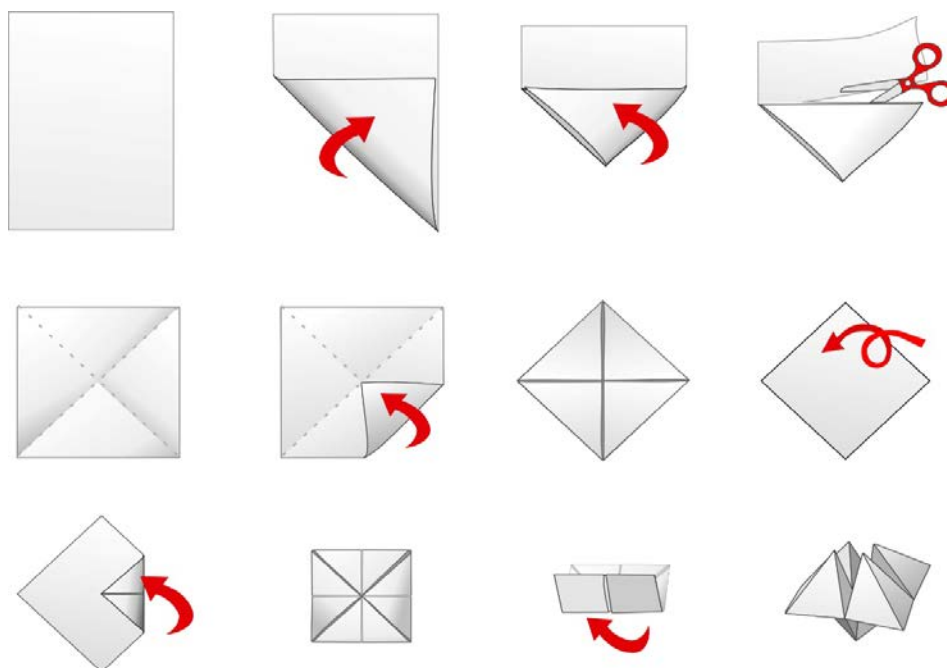
Creative adventure

For this adventure you will need:

A4 plain paper or printed template for younger children.

Sharpie pens/felt tip pens

Scissors



If you are using the templated version get the children to colour in the lion and write “God is with you” inside.



Daniel and the Lions

The older children can draw the template out themselves following the instructions on the next two sheets, they also might like to write times they were afraid or wanted God to help them under the flaps.

Wondering questions to use during creative time:

I wonder if you ever get afraid?

I wonder how God can be with us?

I wonder if prayer can really help?

The Adventure Map

Explain the Adventure Map and how a lot of the books were written hundreds and thousands of years before Jesus came to Earth. However, a lot of the stories in the Bible before the birth of Jesus, talk of his coming and set out how God wants us to live our lives.

Take the young people to the Adventure Map that you have created on the wall. Get the children to find where on the Map today's story came from. Choose one or some of the things created by the children to be photographed and attach this to the wall to create a visual reminder of where the story came from and your adventure together. The aim is that in a year you will have lots of reminders of the stories and where in the Bible they come from. Use a piece of string or ribbon to connect the photo of the craft work to the book of the Bible.

Walking the Way

This is a time to invite the parents and carers back in to share what the children have been up to during the session. They will also be here to hear about the Walking the Way challenge and the tasks (should they choose to accept them) that the children (and parents) are about to undertake.

For the Younger: FOFA the bear

This is FOFA. FOFA likes nothing more than to go on an adventure; FOFA is a little more adventurous than me. FOFA believes that faith is a journey and that's why FOFA would love to take you on a journey with him and walk the way of God in our everyday lives. Each session FOFA would like to go home with one of you and add to FOFA's scrapbook of things you do together. FOFA doesn't mind if you draw a picture of what you have done, take a photograph or just write a story about it. FOFA also doesn't mind



Daniel and the Lions

if you just come and tell the rest of us what you got up to together. But because FOFA's memory isn't very good as FOFA's brains are made of stuffing, it would be better to save the memories in the book if you can. At the end of our time together we can always remember the great adventures we have been on together with FOFA and hopefully you will walk a little closer with God.

For the Older: FOFA cam

This camera is your window on the world. You have one shot at this, so choose carefully. You will be given a very precious piece of equipment – a FOFA cam. You have one photo to take with the camera, that records one thing – a way you have met the challenge. If there are other people in the photo, please ask their permission first and explain this photo will be put on display here. Bring back the camera and your photo next time to share your moment - and remember you only have ONE shot at this!

Every time we will choose someone to take FOFA bear and someone to take FOFA cam to help them with the challenge – but we can all have a go at the challenge!

Our Walking the Way Challenge this time is: look out for a time when you need God to help you to be brave

Adventurers Go!

So, today we have heard how Daniel kept praying and how his trust in God saved him from being the lions' lunch. Through that trust other people came to believe in God! He knew that God was with him and so can we.

Prayers (choose one/both)

Dear God,

When we feel alone or worried,

When we need to do the right thing but feel scared,

Help us to be brave like Daniel because we know you are by our side.

Amen



Daniel and the Lions

Active Prayer

Get a cross and put it in the middle of the table. Using playdough or plasticine, model a lion shape and think about something that you are worried about or a good thing that you should do but feel scared about. (you could just draw one if you don't have playdough etc)

Place your lion by the cross and say "Jesus, help me to be brave"

Amen

End Prayer Every Session: Altogether

We are Friends on Faith Adventures, travelling together with God.

Adventurers go! Amen



Daniel and the Lions



Daniel and the Lions

What you need for this session

Eyeliner pencil/face paint crayon

An old ragged and torn shirt

A crown (made from card or bought from dressing up shop)

Paper bow ties x2 (black card cut in the shape of a bow with sticky tape on the back)

Tea towels x2

A4 plain paper or *printed template for younger children.*

Location	Possible hazard	Action required	Action taken	Signature
During session	Use of make-up/face paint possible allergic reaction	Check for face paint/makeup intolerance with children	Check consent forms and ask participant if they are intolerant	
During session	Use of sharpies and possible damage to clothes	Consider offering protective clothing	Offer children protective clothing and warn older children of the indelible nature of the pens.	
During session	Use off scissors possible cutting of hands	Use rounded end scissors or closely supervise young children	Allocate a helper to the younger children or get an adult to do the cutting	

Sharpie pens/felt tip pens

Scissors



Daniel and the Lions